

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 09182 091929Z

63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15

AGR-20 RSR-01 /143 W

----- 047741

R 091836Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3223

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

/AMEMBASSY GENEVA 2656

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 09182

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: SAMUEL BRITTAN WRITES CRITICAL ARTICLE ON

UK MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC

1. SAMUEL BRITTAN, ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL  
ECONOMIC JOURNALISTS IN THE UK, IS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF  
THE EC IN A LONG FEATURE ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE  
"FINANCIAL TIMES" ON AUGUST 9.

2. BRITTAN SAYS THAT IN THE PAST HE FAVORED UK  
MEMBERSHIP, ADMITTEDLY WITH "MANY OSCILLATIONS," BUT HE  
HAS NOW CHANGED HIS MIND. HE BELIEVES THAT THE FIRST  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 09182 091929Z

SEVEN MONTHS OF MEMBERSHIP HAVE BEEN "A PRETTY WELL

UNMITIGATED LOSS" FROM THE UK'S POINT OF VIEW. HE CITES PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE CAP, THE UK'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE EC BUDGET, AND THE "EXTREME EMBARRASSMENT OF THE PLEDGE TO REPEG OUR EXCHANGE RATE IN RELATION TO THE EEC."

3. BRITTAN SAYS THAT THE POIITICAL ARGUMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP ARE "THIN AND THREADBARE." FROM AN ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW, HE SAYS, THE COMMUNITY IS "A BADLY DESIGNED ORGANIZATION LIKELY TO HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE MAJORITY OF INDIVIDUALS WHO LIVE IN THE BRITISH ISLES AND, FOR THAT MATTER, IN OTHER PARTS OF EUROPE."

4. BRITTAN EMPHASIZES THAT HE IS NOT IN FAVOR OF THE UK'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EC. "WE SHOULD PUT THE INTERESTS OF BRITISH CONSUMERS AND TAXPAYERS FIRST. THIS MEANS INSISTING EITHER ON BIG CHANGES IN THE CAP,OR A BRITISH EXEMPTION FROM IT." IT ALSO MEANS "BEING FRANK ABOUT THE DANGEROUS FUTILITY OF THE MONETARY UNION GOAL, AND OF HARMONISATION FOR HARMONISATION'S SAKE." BRITTAN CONCLUDES THAT THE NINE MAY EVENTUALLY BE DIVIDED INTO AN INNER CORE, AND AN OUTER CORE OF NON-PLAYING MEMBERS.

5. WE ARE FORWARDING THE FULL TEXT OF BRITTAN'S ARTICLE BY AIRGRAM.

SOHM

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LONDON09182  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730848/aaaabjha.tel  
**Line Count:** 89  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** willialc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2001 by willialc>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAMUEL BRITTAN WRITES CRITICAL ARTICLE ON UK MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC  
**TAGS:** EGEN, UK, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005